

honored at the Kosciuszko House on April 2, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending the Senate's best wishes for continued success to Edward J. Piszek and his family. •

#### THE MINNESOTA TORNADOS

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to speak for a few minutes about the violent storms of this past weekend in south-central Minnesota and to express my concern for the many, many victims of this tragedy. TORNADOS and severe thunderstorms ripped through Minnesota Sunday evening, tearing through St. Peter, Hanska, and Lonsdale and forcing the evacuation of the small town of Comfrey.

In the wake of the devastation, my thoughts and prayers go out to the people of south-central Minnesota. I would especially like to express my condolences to the families of Dustin Schneider, the young boy whose life was taken by the storm near St. Peter, and Louis Mosenden of Hanska, who died Monday as a result of injuries he suffered when a tornado hit his home. Our thoughts and prayers are with their loved ones.

Mr. President, along a 60-mile path, hundreds of houses, factories, barns, silos, churches, and schools have been reduced to rubble. Most of the buildings in St. Peter were either destroyed or severely damaged. The smaller community of Comfrey was almost completely destroyed. Power is still out in both towns.

In all, more than 700 houses and apartments were destroyed or damaged to the point that they are now uninhabitable. Another 1,800 have sustained severe damage. Thousands of residents have been forced to go seek public shelters or the homes of friends or relatives. More than 100 businesses have been damaged in the area.

Even with the massive damage, the initial response to this disaster by the State of Minnesota, the Minnesota National Guard, Minnesota relief agencies, and local law enforcement has been swift and efficient. Because of this quick response, and the cooperation we are seeing between state, local, and federal officials, I am confident south-central Minnesota will recover from this natural disaster. I intend to survey the area this weekend, after state and local officials have completed their damage assessments. My staff is already on the scene, and is meeting today with representatives of the Federal Emergency Management Agency in St. Peter as they inspect the damage.

Since first receiving word of the storms, I have been working closely with state and local officials to bring federal assistance to the region and begin the recovery efforts. I want to assure my constituents that the federal government will do whatever is needed to help the people of our state cope with the devastation. Minnesota Governor Arne Carlson today forwarded to President Clinton his formal request for a disaster declaration, and I have

written to the President as well to reiterate the urgency of Governor Carlson's request.

Mr. President, the people of Minnesota have faced disaster before. It was almost one year ago when the terrible spring floods swept through western Minnesota and devastated so many lives. We learned a lot about each other during the difficult months that followed, when it seemed the clean-up would never end and life would never be the same again. We were reminded what it means to be a community, and how communities come together during troubled times.

With that experience fresh in mind, I know that Minnesotans will once step forward and help one another rebuild from this weekend's tornados. And I want the victims of this latest disaster to know that they will not be forgotten. •

#### TRIBUTE TO ANTHONY HIGDON—41 YEARS OF GOVERNMENT SERVICE

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary career of Mr. Anthony Higdon, who retired last month after 41 years of service to his country and the people of the Commonwealth of Kentucky as a member of the U.S. Air Force and as an employee of the Social Security Administration.

After four years in the Air Force, Mr. Higdon spent the last 37 years working for the Social Security Administration, serving the needs of Kentucky's senior citizens. His career included 20 years as manager of the 3 Social Security offices in Louisville. Before that, he served in other capacities in the Louisville offices, as well as at the Social Security branches in Elizabethtown, Hazard and Hopkinsville, Kentucky.

One of Mr. Higdon's most important legacy will be his tireless work with national and community leaders in Kentucky to impress upon them an understanding of the dramatic importance of Social Security programs to all people throughout their lives.

Mr. President, Anthony Higdon will be sorely missed by all his friends and colleagues at the Social Security Administration offices across the Commonwealth of Kentucky. As he retires to the community which he has spent most of his life serving, we wish him best of luck and thank him for his service. •

#### BRIDGEPORT CHARTER TOWNSHIP SESQUICENTENNIAL

• Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to honor a place of great significance in the history of the state of Michigan. Bridgeport Charter Township, located in the heart of Michigan, will celebrate its Sesquicentennial on April 4, 1998. It was founded April 4, 1848, making it the oldest charter township in Michigan.

Bridgeport Charter Township will begin the celebration of its 150th year on April 4, 1998 with a town hall meeting. The celebration will continue

throughout the year with a series of events. They are currently trying to locate ancestors of the original township board to take part in the celebration.

I want to congratulate Bridgeport Charter Township on its Sesquicentennial and extend my best wishes for a successful and enjoyable celebration. •

#### THE 116TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

• Mr. GRAMS. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the Knights of Columbus and join them in the celebration of 116 years of carrying out their mission of "Unity, Service, and Patriotism." In the fall of 1881, a group of men, under the direction of Father Michael J. McGivney, met at St. Mary's Church in New Haven, Connecticut, for the purpose of establishing a fraternal benefit society within the Catholic Church. That small meeting was the genesis for a movement which now claims nearly 1.6 million members (4.5 million including family members) in countries throughout the Western Hemisphere and the Pacific.

After being granted legal corporation on March 29, 1882, the Knights of Columbus began spreading their message of pride in faith and nation. Indeed, the very name Knights of Columbus was chosen to reflect this premise, as it signifies the importance of Christopher Columbus' discovery of America to the Catholic Church.

In times of national crisis, the Knights of Columbus have consistently heeded the call for service and sacrifice. This was perhaps best exemplified during two of the most pivotal events in our Nation's history which occurred this century: World War I and World War II. During these trying times, the Knights of Columbus offered an array of support programs for the men and women of our armed forces, including bond drives and blood donor programs.

In addition, at the conclusion of World War II and the onset of the Cold War, the Knights of Columbus aided in the crusade against Communist expansion by sponsoring 1,300 educational discussion groups, as well as speakers' bureaus, advertisements and radio addresses. The Knights of Columbus' efforts during the Cold War were acknowledged by President Harry S. Truman.

While those accomplishments are indeed admirable, equally impressive are the often unsung works undertaken by individual Knights of Columbus Councils each day. In 1996, Knights of Columbus members reported 48,966,132 hours of volunteer service and donated \$105,976,102 to charity.

Currently, 229 Knights of Columbus Councils serve parishes and communities throughout my home state of Minnesota. The services undertaken by each Council cover many areas and aid

a number of different charities and causes, ranging from providing loans for college students to assisting the sick and the elderly in getting to Sunday Mass.

Other examples of service activities in Minnesota include: a fund drive in support of the construction of Catholic schools conducted by Council 7604 in Eagan, Minnesota; the bowling team from Council 961 in St. Cloud, Minnesota, which raised over \$6,000 for Big Brothers-Big Sisters; and the sponsoring of youth hockey by Council 3166 in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Mr. President, I am pleased to report that the "World's Largest Catholic Family Fraternal Organization" has a commanding presence in Minnesota and will continue to provide communities with an excellent example of how to live a fulfilling life of maximum service to God and country. I am honored to have this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the Knights of Columbus for all their work, and offer my sincerest congratulations on the 116th anniversary of their founding. •

#### TRIBUTE TO THE KENTUCKY WILDCATS: 1998 NCAA NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

• Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, 50 years ago this month, the University of Kentucky accomplished a feat still unmatched in college basketball history. As every backyard all-star in the Commonwealth can tell you, that was the year of the original Fabulous Five.

You see in Kentucky, we have a habit of naming our most special Wildcat teams, and 1948 may have been the most special of the bunch. That group, led by Alex Groza, Ralph Beard and Wah Wah Jones not only earned Kentucky's first NCAA men's college basketball championship trophy but went on to bring home a gold medal from the 1948 Olympics.

Flash forward Fifty years into the future, to see another edition of the Wildcats, and equally high expectations. Led by seniors Jeff Sheppard, Allen Edwards, and Cameron Mills, the 1998 Cats came into the season facing an uncertain future. While expectations are always high at Kentucky, this year's squad exceeded even the most optimistic fan's hopes.

Under the expert leadership of first-year head coach, Tubby Smith, these Wildcats will be raising the school's 7th NCAA championship banner to the rafters of Rupp Arena. But Mr. President, there is so much more to this story than wins and losses.

While the '48 team was appropriately known as the Fab Five, this year's national champions will go down in Wildcat history as maybe the most perfect embodiment of the word "team" in Kentucky's legacy of excellence. Time after time when the odds seemed insurmountable this team willed itself to victory.

A quick review of the final three games of this year's tournament re-

veals the heart of a lion. Down 17 points with less than 10 minutes to play against a Duke squad that had been ranked #1 for most of the year, the Comeback Cats put together a frenzied charge, outscoring the Blue Devils 17 - 1 during a crucial stretch. What made the feat all the more impressive was that every player contributed.

In the Final Four, the Cats squared off against the Stanford Cardinal, the West Coast power that spent the majority of the season undefeated. Down by 5 at half, the Cats did what was natural for them, they put together a rally, eventually winning the contest in overtime. This victory was fueled by one of the most gritty performances in Final Four history, as senior Jeff Sheppard poured in 27 of the Cats 74 points.

What could top this effort in the finals? How about the greatest come-from-behind victory in the history of the NCAA championship. Down 10 at the half, and 12 early in the second half, this selfless group of young men redoubled their efforts and chipped away at the Utah lead. Steadily the tide began to shift behind three point baskets from Heshimu Evans, and Kentucky natives Cameron Mills and Scott Padgett. Refusing to wilt under the pressure of facing the hottest team in the nation, Kentucky hammered away defensively and converted on the offensive end. In the end, Utah's game effort was not enough and the Cats posted a 78 - 69 victory in seizing their second national title in three years.

In what has become habit for the Comeback Cats, the team drew on its strengths and refused to panic. Under the masterful eye of Coach Smith and the intelligent play of a host of stars, the team accomplished its dream of bringing home the title.

So, Mr. President, while we look back fondly on the Fabulous Five of 1948, I am content to take senior Jeff Sheppard's advice to "appreciate the precious present," and embrace these Comeback Cats as the greatest "team" to ever put on the Kentucky uniform. It is impossible to appreciate the intensity and effort these young men put forth as they met and exceeded every challenge in their path during the 1997-98 season.

Mr. President, I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring the University of Kentucky, history-making coach Tubby Smith, athletic director C. M. Newton, and most importantly each and every talented player on the 1998 Championship Wildcat team. •

#### HONORING MORTANA MCCORMICK

• Mr. ROCKEFELLER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak to you on behalf of the citizens of West Virginia. The West Virginia Department of Culture and History has named 1998 "The Year of the Quilt." In the Appalachian Mountain region, and particularly in the great state of West Virginia, the tradition of native crafting, including quilt-

ing, has thrived uninterrupted for over two hundred years.

In 1968, my wife, Sharon, along with a group of community-minded West Virginians assisted a talented group of quilters to form *Mountain Artisans*, a nonprofit group comprised of gifted quilt makers, to help in the preservation and exposure of this artful tradition of design and talent. Many West Virginians considered quilting a part of the mountain state's heritage. My wife and I are particularly fond of the *Mountain Artisans*. When we were expecting our first child, in the late 1960's, the group graciously decided to create a quilt for our first-born. With the assistance of the Sod Sewing Group from Sod, West Virginia, the quilt was completed in mid-September of 1970. The beautiful quilt, which is known as "*The Rockefeller Quilt*" was displayed at the Rockefeller home and today, adorns the wall just outside my office in the Hart Senate Office Building in Washington, D.C.

One master quilter I especially admire is Mortana McCormick of Sod, West Virginia, who contributed to the creation of *The Rockefeller Quilt*. Ms. McCormick, a distinguished quilter, has represented the State well and helped put our state on the "interior design and fashion" map. She has contributed to fashion patchwork designs for Barbra Streisand and museum collections displayed in West Virginia and internationally. Mortana McCormick is just one of the talented artisan-quilters that call West Virginia home. I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing this long standing tradition and art, and its many talented artists, including Ms. Mortana McCormick. •

#### TRIBUTE TO LINCOLN UNIVERSITY

• Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I stand before you today to pay tribute to a truly outstanding University in my home State of Missouri, Lincoln University. Lincoln has played a large role in African American education in my home State of Missouri, as well as across the nation.

Lincoln was founded in 1866 by the Caucasian officers and the African American enlisted men of the 62nd and 65th United States Colored Infantries who fought for the Union during the Civil War. These men wanted to establish a school that would devote itself to educating freed African Americans. By soliciting funds and donating their own salaries, they raised \$6,000 within a few days. With these funds, the soldiers were able to open the doors of Lincoln Institute on September 17, 1866. In 1869, Lincoln began to receive \$5,000 in aid from the State of Missouri for teacher training. By 1940, Lincoln Institute had become Lincoln University and had evolved from a teacher training school to a full University offering Graduate instruction. In each of the decades Lincoln has continually added programs, expanded its facilities and opened its